

Temple, Sue (2019) A significant, not famous person. In: Yorkshire History Forum, 13th November 2019, Leeds Trinity University. (Unpublished)

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Creative Approaches to History

- A significant, not famous, person
- Sue Temple

The Suitcase Activity

Historical Interpretation

Things we know	Things we can guess

Noor Inayat Khan

- Born 1/1/1914 in Kremlin – Grandfather was Indian Royal Family
- Moved to Paris, father died.
- Got a degree in Childhood Psychology, wrote children's stories and books
- Played several instruments
- Spoke French, English and Russian well
- Brought up as a Sufi Muslim
- Fled to England when Nazis invaded France
- Decided to help fight against Nazi regime
- Became a wireless operator

- Potential as a spy recognised – trained by SOE
- Sent into France with life expectancy of 6 weeks- left weapons behind
- Evaded capture for 3 months – then given up by sister of 'Prosper' Network for £100
- Sent to Concentration camp and died just before end of war.
- Received George Cross – one of only 3 women to do so.

The Princess Spy



Timeline Activity



Justification for our choice -

- “Noor Inayat Khan was chosen for a number of reasons. She was: mixed race - American and Indian; a Sufi Muslim; she lived within living memory; had an interesting and influential life; In addition she was a princess and a spy (potentially appealing to boys and girls in different ways). Finally there were clear links with a period of History which is covered in the National Curriculum.”

Great Corby Village & School

- 67 Pupils, only one child not white, British, Christian
- Involved whole school
- Different reactions from different staff
- Involved Local community
- Try out cross curricular planning
- Something different and fun!

Planning Process

- Met with Head and brainstormed ideas
- Took responsibility for different areas
- Brought together with the staff
- Made a MTP
- Planned the week
- Collected resources & booked people/places

Research - Juniors

Suitcase Activity

School Dinners – under rationing!

Involving Local Community

Sleepover at Tullie House

With help from the BA QTS
History Specialists

Identity Cards & Gas mask boxes

Air Raid evacuations – to the bike shed!

World War II artefacts handling

Role Play Activities

Children took on the roles of Noor, Vera Atkins and Buckmaster.

Breakfast and Presentations



A memorial was unveiled to Noor by Princess Anne in November 2012. The bronze bust commemorating Britain's only female Muslim war heroine is the first stand-alone memorial to an Asian woman in the UK.